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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus comprising:

an input unit which converts read-in image data to digitized image signals or image information generated as digital information to image signals;

an output unit which can output the digitized image signals as a printed image; and

a programmable image processing unit which subjects the digitized image signals to image processing,

wherein said image processing unit comprises:

a first storage section which stores image data for an object to be image-processed in ~~which a sequence of image processing and data for image processing are rewritably written;~~

a second storage section in which a sequence of image processing and data for image processing are rewritably written ~~which stores image data for an object to be image-processed;~~

an image processing section which grabs image data for an object to be image-processed from said first storage section , and performs data processing by referring to the sequence of image processing and the data for image processing written in the second storage section;

a third storage section which temporarily stores a sequence of image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated, that are transferred from an external microprocessor; and

a transfer control section which transfers the sequence of image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated from said third storage section to said second storage section during idle cycle time that said image processing section does not execute image processing, and

said transfer control section provides controls for transfer so as to split the sequence of image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated into blocks for a plurality of transfer times and transfer the blocks from said third storage section to said second storage section.

Claim 2 (Original): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image processing unit is formed with an SIMD (Single Instruction stream Multiple Data stream) type of processor.

Claim 3 (Original): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transfer control section provides controls for transfer so as to split the sequence of image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated into blocks for a plurality of transfer times, each by a predetermined number of pieces of data to be transferred for one time, and transfer the blocks from said third storage section to said second storage section.

Claim 4 (Original): The image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said image processing unit is formed with an SIMD (Single Instruction stream Multiple Data stream) type of processor.

Claim 5 (Original): The image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein a set value of the predetermined number of pieces of data to be transferred for one time is included in data downloaded from said external microprocessor into said third storage section, and is set according to the length of idle cycle time determined based on the ability of said image processing section to perform image processing.

Claim 6 (Original): The image processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said image processing unit is formed with an SIMD (Single Instruction stream Multiple Data stream) type of processor.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A method for adding or updating a sequence of image processing and data for image processing in an image processing apparatus comprising:

an input unit which converts read-in image data to digitized image signals or image information generated as digital information to image signals;

an output unit which can output the digitized image signals as a printed image; and

a programmable image processing unit which subjects the digitized image signals to image processing, and said image processing unit comprising:

a first storage section which stores image data for an object to be image-processed in ~~which a sequence of image processing and data for image processing are rewritably written;~~

a second storage section in which a sequence of image processing and data for image processing are rewritably written ~~which stores image data for an object to be image-~~
processed;

an image processing section which grabs image data for an object to be image-processed from said first storage section, and performs data processing by referring to the sequence of image processing and the data for image processing written in the second storage section;

a third storage section which temporarily stores the sequence of image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated, that are transferred by an external microprocessor; and

a transfer control section which transfers the sequence of image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated from said third storage section to said second

storage section during idle cycle time that said image processing section does not execute image processing,

wherein the sequence of image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated are split into blocks for a plurality of transfer times, and the blocks are transferred from said third storage section to said second storage section.

Claim 8 (Original): The method for adding or updating a sequence of image processing and data for image processing in an image processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the sequence of image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated are split into blocks for a plurality of transfer times each by a predetermined number of pieces of data to be transferred for one time, and the blocks are transferred from said third storage section to said second storage section.

Claim 9 (Original): The method for adding or updating a sequence of image processing and data for image processing in the image processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein a set value of the predetermined number of pieces of data to be transferred for one time is included in data downloaded from said external microprocessor into said third storage section, and is set according to the length of idle cycle time determined based on the ability of said image processing section to perform image processing.

Claims 10 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable recording medium in which a program for making a computer execute the method for adding or updating a sequence of image processing and data for image processing in an image processing apparatus comprising:

an input unit which converts read-in image data to digitized image signals or image information generated as digital information to image signals;

an output unit which can output the digitized image signals as a printed image; and

a programmable image processing unit which subjects the digitized image signals to image processing, and said image processing unit comprising:

a first storage section which stores image data for an object to be image-processed in ~~which a sequence of image processing and data for image processing are rewritably written;~~

a second storage section in which a sequence of image processing and data for image processing are rewritably written ~~which stores image data for an object to be image-processed;~~

an image processing section which grabs image data for an object to be image-processed from said first storage section, and performs data processing by referring to the sequence of image processing and the data for image processing written in the second storage section;

a third storage section which temporarily stores the sequence of image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated, that are transferred by an external microprocessor; and

a transfer control section which transfers the sequence of image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated from said third storage section to said second storage section during idle cycle time that said image processing section does not execute image processing,

wherein the sequence of image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated are split into blocks for a plurality of transfer times, and the blocks are transferred from said third storage section to said second storage section.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable recording medium in which a program for making a computer execute the method for adding or updating a sequence of image processing and data for image processing in an image processing apparatus comprising:

an input unit which converts read-in image data to digitized image signals or image information generated as digital information to image signals;

an output unit which can output the digitized image signals as a printed image; and
a programmable image processing unit which subjects the digitized image signals to image processing, and said image processing unit comprising:

a first storage section which stores image data for an object to be image-processed in ~~which a sequence of image processing and data for image processing are rewritably written;~~

a second storage section in which a sequence of image processing and data for image processing are rewritably written ~~which stores image data for an object to be image-~~
~~processed;~~

an image processing section which grabs image data for an object to be image-processed from said first storage section, and performs data processing by referring to the sequence of image processing and the data for image processing written in the second storage section;

a third storage section which temporarily stores the sequence of image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated, that are transferred by an external microprocessor; and

a transfer control section which transfers the sequence of image processing and data for image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated from said third storage section to said second storage section during idle cycle time that said image processing section does not execute image processing,

wherein the sequence of image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated are split into blocks for a plurality of transfer times, and the blocks are transferred from said third storage section to said second storage section; and

wherein the sequence of image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated are split into blocks for a plurality of transfer times each by a predetermined number of pieces of data to be transferred for one time, and the blocks are transferred from said third storage section to said second storage section.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable recording medium in which a program for making a computer execute the method for adding or updating a sequence of image processing and data for image processing in an image processing apparatus comprising:

an input unit which converts read-in image data to digitized image signals or image information generated as digital information to image signals;

an output unit which can output the digitized image signals as a printed image; and

a programmable image processing unit which subjects digitized image signals to image processing, and said image processing unit comprising:

a first storage section which stores image data for an object to be image-processed in
~~which a sequence of image processing and data for image processing are rewritably written;~~

a second storage section in which a sequence of image processing and data for image
processing are rewritably written ~~which stores image data for an object to be image-~~
~~processed;~~

an image processing section which grabs image data for an object to be image-processed from said first storage section, and performs data processing by referring to the

sequence of image processing and the data for image processing written in the second storage section;

a third storage section which temporarily stores the sequence of image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated, that are transferred by an external microprocessor; and

a transfer control section which transfers the sequence of image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated from said third storage section to said second storage during idle cycle time that said image processing section does not executed miage processing,

wherein the sequence of image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated are split into blocks for a plurality of transfer times, and the blocks are transferred from said third storage section to said second storage section;

wherein the sequence of image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated are split into blocks for a plurality of transfer times each by a predetermined number of pieces of data to be transferred for one time, and the blocks are transferred from said third storage section to said second storage section; and

wherein a set value of the predetermined number of pieces of data to be transferred for one time is included in data downloaded from said external microprocessor into said third storage section, and is set according to the length of idle cycle time determined based on the ability of said image processing section to perform image processing.

Claim 13 (New): An image processing apparatus comprising:

a programmable image processing unit which subjects the digitized image signals to image processing,

wherein said image processing unit comprises:

a first storage section which stores image data for an object to be image-processed;

a second storage section in which a sequence of image processing and data for image processing are rewritably written;

an image processing section which grabs image data for an object to be image-processed from said first storage section, and performs data processing by referring to the sequence of image processing and the data for image processing written in the second storage section;

a third storage section which temporarily stores a sequence of image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated, that are transferred from an external microprocessor; and

a transfer control section which transfers the sequence of image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated from said third storage section to said second storage section during idle cycle time that said image processing section does not execute image processing, and

said transfer control section provides controls for transfer so as to split the sequence of image processing and data for image processing to be added or updated into blocks for a plurality of transfer times and transfer the blocks from said third storage section to said second storage section.

Claim 14 (New): A processing apparatus for renewing programs and data comprising:

a programmable processing unit which subjects the digitized signals to processing, wherein said programmable processing unit comprises:

a first storage section which stores data for an object to be processed;

a second storage section in which a sequence of processing and data for processing are rewritably written;

a processing section which grabs data for an object to be processed from said first storage section, and performs data processing by referring to the sequence of processing and the data for processing written in the second storage section;

a third storage section which temporarily stores a sequence of processing and data for processing to be added or updated, that are transferred from an external microprocessor; and

a transfer control section which transfers the sequence of processing and data for processing to be added or updated from said third storage section to said second storage section during idle cycle time that said processing section does not execute processing, and

said transfer control section provides controls for transfer so as to split the sequence of processing and data for processing to be added or updated into blocks for a plurality of transfer times and transfer the blocks from said third storage section to said second storage section.